



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office

P.O. Box 45155

Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html>



IN REPLY REFER TO:

8270

(UT-934)P

December 2, 2009

Instruction Memorandum No. UT 2010-011

(Expires: 09/30/2011)

To: All District Managers and Paleontology Coordinators

From: State Director

Subject: Implementation of the OPLA-PRP and Designation of Field Office Paleontology Coordinators

**DD: 12/04/2009**

**Program Area:** Cultural Resources

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum is to establish a line of communication between the field and the State Office with regard to paleontological resources and the implementation of the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 – Paleontological Resource Preservation (OPLA-PRP).

### **Policy/Action:**

#### **1. Designation of Paleontology Coordinator in each Field Office**

The OPLA-PRP requires that the Secretary of the Interior manage and protect paleontological resources on Federal land using scientific principles and expertise. Establishing a Paleontology Coordinator in each office promotes management of the paleontological resources on BLM-administered lands. Each District Manager is responsible for all Paleontology Coordinator collateral duties, which may be delegated to any supervised employee (typically a cultural or geological specialist). District Managers should formally assign a Paleontology Coordinator for each office and forward contact information to the State Paleontology Program Lead (and/or Regional Paleontologist) by December 4, 2009.

The responsibilities of the Paleontology Coordinator are as follows:

1. Serve as the primary contact for State Paleontology Program Lead (and/or Regional Paleontologist) and represent the Field Office in quarterly conference calls.
2. Serve as the field contact for paleontological resource use permittees. This includes, but is not limited to, authorizing field work, answering inquiries, and tracking permittees.
3. Responsible for all paleontological actions in the Field Office, including NEPA evaluations, paleontology reports, and data calls.

If a Paleontology Coordinator is not designated, the District Manager will serve as the point of contact for all Paleontology Coordinator duties.

## **2. Statewide communication regarding Paleontological Resources**

The State Paleontology Program Lead (and/or Regional Paleontologist) will host periodic meetings to share information and to listen to issues regarding the management of paleontological resources. This will include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

1. OPLA-PRP and the associated rulemaking process.
2. 8270 policy interpretation and implementation.
3. Paleontology related NEPA issues.
4. Facilitating paleontological research.
5. Managing paleontological locality data.
6. Paleontological consulting and mitigation.
7. Paleontology related law enforcement issues.

Designated Paleontology Coordinators will act as the representative for each Field Office. However, other employees (including managers and Law Enforcement personnel) are welcome to attend.

As Utah BLM continues to implement OPLA-PRP, Information Bulletins will be produced as necessary.

**Timeframe:** This Instruction Memorandum is effective immediately.

**Budget Impact:** There is no budget impact resulting from the implementation of this Instruction Memorandum.

**Directives/Manuals/Handbooks Affected:** 8270 Manual and H8270 Handbook

**Contact:** Any comments or questions should be directed to Scott Foss (UTSO Regional Paleontologist, UT-934) (801) 539-4272

**Signed by:**  
**Selma Sierra**  
**State Director**

**Authenticated by:**  
**Rosie Geren**  
**Records Manager**